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International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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Meeting of States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Twentieth Meeting

Summary record of the 26th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 September 2000, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. Ndiaye ..... (Representative of the Secretary-General)
Chairman: Mr. Marxer ..... (Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Opening of the meeting by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

1. **The Temporary Chairman** summarized relevant developments since the last meeting of States parties, held on 13 September 1999. Cape Verde had become a party to the Optional Protocol, bringing the total number of States parties to that Protocol to 95. Six additional States (Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Monaco, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) had become Parties to the Second Optional Protocol, on the abolition of the death penalty, bringing the total to 44. While no more States had become parties to the Covenant, China, a signatory, had notified the Secretary-General that it would apply the Covenant in the Macao Special Administrative Region, as it was already doing in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Bangladesh, Botswana and Ghana had ratified the Covenant during the Millennium Summit. There was a growing awareness in the world at large of the importance of human rights and the need to strengthen and extend the observance of international legal norms.

2. In the course of the year just past, the Human Rights Committee had held three sessions, during which it had examined a number of initial and periodic reports from States parties and had adopted new consolidated guidelines aimed at reducing the reporting burden on States parties through greater flexibility in reporting requirements. The Committee had adopted General Comment No. 27, on freedom of movement (article 12 of the Covenant) and General Comment No. 28, on gender equality (article 3), both of which took account of the Committee's growing jurisprudence and the Optional Protocol.

3. Out of 936 communications registered under the Optional Protocol, there had been 346 final decisions, 280 cases had been declared inadmissible, 134 cases had been discontinued or withdrawn and 173 were still pending, of which 28 had been declared admissible. It was gratifying to note that high-level judicial instances in States parties had begun to refer to the Committee's decisions in their judgements.

Election of the Chairman

4. **Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka** (Uganda) nominated Mr. Marxer (Liechtenstein) for the office of Chairman.

5. *Mr. Marxer (Liechtenstein) was elected Chairman* by acclamation.

6. *Mr. Marxer (Liechtenstein) took the Chair.*

Adoption of the agenda (CCPR/SP/57)

7. *The agenda was adopted.*

8. **The Chairman** noted that, although under the rules of procedure the credentials of representatives and the names of members of delegations were to be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting, a number of the States parties represented at the meeting had not yet submitted their credentials. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of those States parties should be authorized provisionally to participate in the meeting; he urged those representatives to ensure that their credentials were submitted to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

9. *It was so decided.*

Election of other officers

10. **The Chairman** said that Ms. Mesdoua (Algeria) had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chairperson.

11. *Ms. Mesdoua (Algeria) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.*

Election, in accordance with articles 28 to 32 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of nine members of the Human Rights Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2000 (CCPR/SP/56 and Add.1-4)

12. **The Chairman** drew attention to the list of 17 candidates nominated by States parties in document CCPR/SP/56 and addenda 1 to 4 and invited the meeting to elect nine of them by secret ballot.

13. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Loreto Leyton (Chile) and Ms. Kim Hyo-eun (Republic of Korea) acted as tellers.*

14. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	137
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballot papers:	137

Abstentions: none

Number of representatives voting: 137

Required majority: 69

Number of votes obtained:

Mr. Rodley (United Kingdom)	102
Mr. Yalden (Canada)	96
Mr. Khalil (Egypt)	95
Mr. Scheinin (Finland)	95
Mr. Rivas Posada (Colombia)	92
Mr. Shearer (Australia)	92
Mr. Lallah (Mauritius)	91
Mr. Vella (Malta)	79
Mr. Glèlè Ahanhanzo (Benin)	71

15. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Glèlè Ahanhanzo (Benin), Mr. Khalil (Egypt), Mr. Lallah (Mauritius), Mr. Rivas Posada (Colombia), Mr. Rodley (United Kingdom), Mr. Scheinin (Finland and), Mr. Shearer (Australia), Mr. Vella (Malta) Mr. Yalden (Canada) were elected members of the Human Rights Committee.*

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.